

Commission on Aging  
Minutes of Regular & Annual Meeting  
Monday, October 20, 2014 @ 5:00pm

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSION ON AGING

The Commission on Aging held both a Regular & Annual Meeting on Monday October 20, 2014 at the Senior Center, 14 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, CT. Chairman Curt Symes called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

**Present:** Anna Wiedemann, Sheila Torres, Curt Symes, Joanne Davis (arrived at 5:13 after minutes were approved), Joan Plouffe, Clair Theune, Joanne Albanesi, John Boccuzzi, Anne Rothstein, Margaret Imbro, Barbara Bloom

**Excused:** LeReine Frampton

**Also present:** Marilyn Place, 5 members of the public, Ann Piccini (5:36)

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Rose West expressed concerns because speaking at the beginning of the meeting doesn't do much unless they have an agenda of their own. So many interesting things come up during the meeting but to sit until 7pm to talk for 3 minutes is not worth her while. She would like to put her hand up during the meeting and ask questions that may come up. Curt Symes will look at the protocol for the next meeting and that it is the objective to wrap up the meeting at 6pm, so if there are additional questions then the public will be able to ask the questions.

**MINUTES** – Margaret Imbro moved to accept the August 18, 2014 meeting minutes. Joanne Albanesi seconded. LeReine Frampton e-mailed changes: LeReine addressed the concerns expressed to the team when they met with them regarding the survey. They were concerned about process of stopping people from driving when they were no longer able to drive - they are looking for legislation; the lack of adequate transportation - suggested before anyone is allowed to build senior housing they supply a plan to supply transportation to occupants; concern over the dramatic changes seniors go through moving and downsizing - suggested some kind of program to prepare them for all the different changes. Minutes were unanimously approved with the changes.

September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting – Tabled

Margaret Imbro moved to accept the minutes of the special meeting of October 7, 2014. Joanne Albanesi seconded, unanimously accepted.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – ATTACHMENT A.** Curt Symes welcomed Arlene Miles as the new Clerk for the CoA and thanked Tammy Hazen for her service over the past year. He also welcomed Barbara Bloom who has been appointed to the CoA replacing Karin Aurelia.

**ANNUAL MEETING/ELECTION OF OFFICERS** – Joan Plouffe, Margaret Imbro and Claire Theune, representing the Nominating Committee, nominated Curt Symes for Chairman, Sheila Torres and Joanne Davis as Co-Vice Chairs and Anna Wiedemann as Treasurer. Joanne Albanesi moved to accept the nominations as presented. Joan Plouffe seconded, motion unanimously accepted.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*Newtown Community Center Status* – It is anticipated that within the next month they will hear closure as to who the contractors are that will be selected for both the architectural/engineering work and construction management work. A lot of the requirements work that was done here over this past year, in and around the CoA & Senior Center, will directly input into the architecture and engineering processes.

*Newtown-wide Senior Survey Update* – Sheila Torres and Anne Rothstein from the Community Outreach Team presented (Attachment B). They gave an update as to what they have learned from the survey so far. They have only done page 1, page 2 has a lot more information and is very detailed. They will update their findings in November and December, with the final report presented at the January 2015 meeting. They have received a 27% return from the mail survey.

Sheila Torres asked to gather any specific questions or breakouts that members have so they can include them in the next presentation.

They also discussed looking to get donations for the new center before it is built. All they are getting is a building. If there is a business that would like to sponsor the outfitting of a room, they would get recognition if it is fitting.

Marilyn Placed suggested selling bricks as they did for the Library as a fundraising opportunity.

*CoA Grants Discussion* – The Grants Team will be the catcher for financially related items. The Grants Team will take on the research and solicitations of funds. There is a two year window to work on this with visions of a ribbon cutting at the end of 2016.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

*CoA Budget Discussion* – Curt Symes articulated that there has been a consideration from principles of the town to get the CoA a budget for 15/16. He asked the commission members to collectively think about line item activities. Don't limit your thoughts, keep an open mind.

*Newtown IT & CoA Website(s) Discussion* – Anne Rothstein is working on getting costs for a website. Joanne Davis expressed concerned because you need to have a comprehensive idea before you can get an accurate quote. A discussion of how and what will be on the website occurred. Further discussion will continue at subsequent meetings.

***Treasurer's Report*** – ATTACHMENT C. Sheila Torres asked for a more detailed description to be added to the report as to what the costs are in the report. Joan Plouffe move to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Joanne Albanesi seconded, motion unanimously accepted.

***Director of Senior Services Report*** – ATTACHMENT D. John Boccuzzi moved to approve \$740 from the gift fund for the holiday party. Sheila Torres seconded, motion unanimously approved. Marilyn Place also expressed concern for the seniors during the winter months. She would like to get them back into the senior center by sponsoring a lunch once a month for 30 seniors. This will get the seniors back into the center and give them the opportunity to interact with other members and make them feel comfortable to return to the senior center. This would be from December to March. She is requesting a total of \$240 from the gift fund to get this done. John Boccuzzi moved to approve \$240 from the gift fund to sponsor the lunches. Margaret Imbro seconded, motion unanimously approved.

***Municipal Agent for Elderly Report*** – ATTACHMENT E. Ann Piccini highlighted the growing need for both services and financial support by seniors here in Newtown along with the ongoing challenges of trying to reach the CT DSS office via telephone and computer application in order to resolve client questions.

*Public Participation* – Rose West, strongly believes that they need to keep Senior in Senior Center.

Having no further business, meeting was adjourned at 6:28pm.

Arlene Miles  
Clerk



# Attachment A

## Newtown Commission on Aging (COA) – Chairman Report – 10/20/14 Meeting

Welcome to both our October Monthly COA Meeting and our COA 2014 Annual Meeting which encompasses the Election of COA Officers for 2015. In addition, for senior awareness October is Cyber Security Awareness Month to highlight the fact that seniors have become a target of both electronic and phone scams. Tom Dwyer, former COA Chair, recently shared with me a scam that he became aware of regarding a Publishers Clearing House ploy of significant free money being awarded. Info can be researched online.

We will be continuing our 2014 primary focus on the New Community Center, including both the Senior & Aquatic Centers, the Newtown-wide 60+ Senior Survey and our COA Grants Initiatives both short and long term. In addition, we have now launched an effort to ensure the visibility of Newtown's Senior activities in the ongoing Charter Revision work and a new senior-friendly, informative website-electronic bulletin board.

I also want to welcome Arlene Miles as our new COA Clerk and thank Tammy Hazen for her support as our clerk over the past year.

If you did not see the announcement, the Newtown Senior Center "Senior Steppers" are on CTV-21 (Ch. 192) this week and a DVD is available for viewing at the Senior Center.

Finally, the New Community Center (Senior Center & Aquatics Center) Study Group–Advisory Team has been meeting diligently these past weeks to review, assess and make recommendations on the selection of both Architecture/Engineering and Construction Management Contractors for the new facility.

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Symes

Chair, Newtown COA

# Attachment B

## Commission on Aging Community Outreach Team

**Meeting Date/Time:** Wednesday, October 15, 2014/ 4 pm

**Present:** Le Reine Frampton, Margaret Imbro, Sheila Torres, Anna Wiedemann,  
Joanne Albanesi

**Location:** LeReine's Cuisine, Peck Lane, Newtown, CT

### Key Discussion Points

- Provide copies of survey print publicity to clerk to make part of the public record (articles attached)
- Survey results so far for all questions on page 1 will be presented at the October 20 meeting
- Gather any specific questions or breakouts that would be helpful to commissioners at the October meeting.
- LeReine wrote letter to the editor letting recipients know it's not too late to send the survey.
- Team is still receiving some surveys and is continuing to enter data as it comes in.
- Team will submit article on December 2 for Dec 5<sup>th</sup> Bee letting residents know that the survey results will be presented at the December 15 COA Meeting and that they can check the town web site in the event of inclement weather.
- At the December COA Meeting, team will present data for all questions, except the comments. LeReine will bring cookies.
- At the January meeting a more detailed analysis of all the data will be presented, including the comments.
- Team spoke about having a contest to name the new senior center and efforts to begin reaching out to the community for gifts or donations for the new space, including furniture or other donations.

**Next Meeting:** November 10, 4 PM, Le Reine's Cuisine





Senior Center members Vicki Bocuzzi, Dorothy Dellatiano and Mary Hanlon inform residents about the upcoming senior survey from the COA table at last month's Booth Library Book Sale.

## Residents to Partake of Survey

NEWTOWN — The town is asking Newtown residents age 60 or older to participate in a survey to identify their needs and interests.

Survey data will influence current and future senior programs, including those for the new senior center located in the Newtown Community Center to be built with a grant from General Electric.

The survey was mailed the first week in August to all registered voters.

Participants should use the envelope provided to return the survey by August 31.

The brief six-question survey includes questions related to demographics, emergency support, issues important to seniors; services provided by the town; and, programs and activities that recipients would like to see offered.

Responses are anonymous,

though participants can identify themselves if they wish.

The senior survey was designed and administered by the Newtown Commission on Aging with the support of Newtown's Senior Services, the Municipal Agent for the Elderly/Social Services, the Registrar of Voters, and the Senior Action Committee.

The COA's mission is to study and identify the needs of senior residents and develop or coordinate programs and grants to meet those needs.

This is the first-ever COA survey of senior residents.

Newtown's senior population, more than 18 percent of the total, will continue to grow as more Baby Boomers mature.

The COA would like to ensure that senior programs continue to address the needs and interests of all seniors.

"This was a true community effort. We received support not

only from the town, but also from students in the Newtown High School Transitional Program, who helped assemble the surveys, and volunteers from various community groups as well as commissioners who helped with all the production work," said Curt Symes, chairman of the Commission on Aging.

Residents who need assistance completing their survey may contact the Social Services Department at 203-270-4330.

Similarly, seniors who are not registered, but wish to participate in the survey may call 203-948-4253 to obtain a survey form.

The Newtown Commission on Aging is an organization of twelve appointed volunteers whose mission is to study and identify the needs of senior (age 60 plus) residents and recommend programs and grants to meet those needs.





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## Still Seeking Senior Survey Submissions

By LeReine Frampton  
Thursday, October 2, 2014

To the Editor,

I am a member of the outreach team for the commission on Aging. We sent out surveys to all registered voters between the ages of 60 and 95. We had originally set a cut off date of August 30th. We have extended the cut off date so please mail them back in.

We have about a 25% return rate which is actually a good turn out but we really want to hear from everyone. So please mail them in even if they don't make them into our official results which will be at our November or December meeting, your voice will be heard. The data from this survey will be used for many years. It will influence programming at our Senior Center and possibly Park and Rec.

We will know what your priorities are. We can use information for emergency services. The Commission on Aging is charged with the needs of all Seniors in Newtown not just to look after a facility. Your opinions and needs are important to us whether you use the Senior Center or not. So please take the time and let us know what would be good for you!

Thank You,

LeReine Frampton

Pebble Road, Newtown

October 3, 2014

More stories like this: , [LeReine Frampton](#)  
You must [register](#) or [login](#) to post a comment.

## More in Letters to the Editor

- [Letter of Endorsement](#)
- [Letter of Endorsement](#)
- [Celebrating Sandy Hook](#)
- [Letter of Endorsement](#)
- [Selectmen Make Questionable Appointments](#)
- [Letter of Endorsement](#)
- [Letter of Endorsement](#)
- [Searching For The Right Balance On The Ballot](#)
- [Letter of Endorsement](#)
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# Responses Strong On Survey Of Senior Needs, Interests

A-SIX

A first of its kind survey to assess the needs and interests of Newtown seniors is getting a great reception according to Commission on Aging member LeReine Frampton.

"The surveys just started going out by mail, and we already have 122 back in the first five days," Ms Frampton said.

Newtown residents age 60 or older are being asked to participate in the survey, which started going out earlier in August to all registered voters in this population. The mailing also included a return envelope, which likely improved the speed and rate of responses.

Participants have been asked to send back the survey by August 31.

The brief six-question survey includes questions related to demographics, emergency support, issues important to seniors, services provided by the town, and programs and activities that recipients would like to see offered. Responses are anonymous, though participants can identify themselves if they wish.

Survey data will influence current and future senior programs, including those for the new senior center located in the community center to be built with a grant from General Electric to Newtown.

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the Newtown Commission on Aging (COA) with the support of Newtown's Senior Services, the municipal agent for the Elder-

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total — will continue to grow as more baby boomers mature. The COA would like to ensure that senior programs continue to address the needs and interests of all seniors.

"This was a true community effort. We received support not only from the town, but also from students in the Newtown High School Transitional Program, who helped assemble the surveys, and volunteers from various community groups as well as commissioners who helped with all the production work," said Curt Symes, chairman of the Commission on Aging.

Residents who need assistance completing their survey may contact the Social Services Department at 203-270-4330. Similarly, seniors who are not registered, but wish to participate in the survey may call 203-948-4253 to obtain a survey form.

The Newtown Commission on Aging is an organization of 12 appointed volunteers — nine commissioners and three alternate commissioners — whose mission is to study and identify the needs of senior (age 60 plus) residents and recommend programs and grants to meet those needs.

For more information visit the Town of Newtown website [newtown-ct.gov](http://newtown-ct.gov) under "Boards and Commissions."





Student volunteers and students from the Vocational Extended School Year Program address envelopes for the Outreach Committee of the Commission on Aging, Thursday morning, July 31, at LeReine's Cuisine, 30 Pecks Lane. The students spent Monday through Thursday mornings, the weeks of July 21 and 28, placing SASE inside each envelope containing a survey for Newtown residents ages 60 to 95, and placing address stickers on each one. From left are Ryan Gray, Danielle Mola, Brandi Braziel (standing), LeReine Frampton, outreach committee member and owner of LeReine's Cuisine, VESY teacher Noel Macfadyen, Paul Jeffrey, Matt Knapp, and Lilly Macfadyen.

—Bee Photo, Crevier

Attachment C

SENIOR SERVICES GIFT FUND

DATE	RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS	C/R	C/D	FRANK KNOTTS	
				TRUST FUND	BALANCE
7/1/13	Beginning Balance				41,995.66
7/22/14	Trust Distribution			609.76	42,605.42
8/1/14	Ck. #14903 Holiday Hill		(270.00)		42,335.42
8/1/14	Ck. #15024 Michael's at the Grove		(200.00)		42,135.42
9/4/14	Ck. #15537 Superior Signs		(340.00)		41,795.42
9/4/14	Ck. #15468 Minuteman Press		(485.00)		41,310.42
9/18/14	Ck. #15611 John Bocuzzi		(61.24)		41,249.18
9/18/14	T-14601 Trust Distribution			491.00	41,740.18





**COMPLETED EVENTS:**

- Game Night and Social Sept 19
- BHC Nutritionist & cooking demo Sept 23
- Hot Dog Luncheon Sept 26
- 3 Flu Shot Clinics Sept 16, Sept 30, Oct 14
- Elder Law Seminar "How Can I Protect My Life Saving's & Lifestyle? Oct 8
- KENO sponsored by Golden Opportunities (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month)
- Bingo sponsored by CT Nursing Service Oct 15
- AARP driver safety program Oct 17

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Halloween Luncheon/Bingo Party w/ Bob Mell entertainer October 30
- SC Holiday Gift Store every Thurs/Fri from 10-2 starting Nov 7
- Game night/social Nov 7
- Lunch and Learn sponsored by Masonic Care Nov 14
- You Be The Judge sponsored by Visiting Angels Nov 21
- Computer/ipad/iphone problems? Get help from IT director Al Miles Nov 25
- Spirituality and Aging Session w/ Leo McIllrath Chaplain @ The Lutheran Home of Southbury Dec 2
- 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Party @ Michael's at the Grove Dec 9
- SC Holiday Bingo Party and sing a long Dec 17

**Upcoming Trips**

- Oktoberfest @ Platzl Brauhaus Oct 21
- WBDT South Pacific Oct 30
- Mohegan Sun Nov 6
- Radio City Xmas Spectacular Nov 20
- Boar's Head Feast Celebration w/ Bright Nights Dec 8

**Annual Holiday Party @ Michael's at the Grove update:**

**Set date is Tuesday Dec 9 and snow date is Friday Dec. 12 from 11-3**

\$35 pp includes gratuity

**Music will be by DJ BIG DADDY**

**\*\*\*\*\*Please note:**

**His fee is \$250 I am requesting funds from the gift fund to sponsor the entertainment at the annual Holiday Party. Also for 4 staff and 10 seniors**

**\$250 for entertainment**

**\$140 for 4 staff**

**\$350 for 10 seniors**

**Total: \$ 740 requested from gift account**

*Hope many from the COA can attend.*

- I have mentioned my concerns for clients/seniors and the fact of "social isolation" amongst our seniors in our community. I'm collaborating w/ Ann Piccini to entice our mutual clients to the center during the winter months to come and socialize and have a meal. This is simply encouraging and inviting....once a month for 30. The van will provide transportation for some. **I'm requesting \$2.00 pp for 30 seniors (\$60 a month) for the months of Dec, Jan, Feb, March**  
**Total; \$240**



- I'm also collaborating w/ Kelly Paredes from Ben's Lighthouse to do a Middle School Senior Program. It is an inter-generational program of combining the two groups together at the school and discuss heritage, culture, celebrations, holidays now and then etc. The differences, are they the same, how much has it changed etc. We used to do this at the Hawley School w/ Lee Antanasio 4<sup>th</sup> grade class. It was a great experience for all.
- Hot Dog Friday will continue the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month. By keeping it simple of dogs and chips w/ fruit for \$2 it will run by itself.
- Al Miles, IT Director was such a big hit on Thursday w/ Pat Llodra showing how to use Sykpe...he will be returning Nov 25 @ 10 to help seniors w/ questions/problems w/ their personal lap top & iphone etc.
- With the holiday quickly coming upon us...I've reached out to Leo McIllrath to do a Spirituality and Aging session here at the Center. The holiday season is tough on many and this is one way to encourage positive feelings and give support to others in a different kind of discussion group. This will be Dec 3 @ 1
- Diana Baxter a local artist who happens to be a writer and has published a few books, will be facilitating a writing class starting in Nov
- Elder Law Seminar and Ask an Attorney is very popular. 42 seniors benefited from it and will continue on Dec 3.
- These speakers whether from Better Business Bureau, Bethel Healthcare, Candlewood Valley, Danbury hospital, Elder law, etc. are free and is a wonderful service to our seniors. Many topics change and many rotate yearly to go with the needs and interest.
- For the Fall/Winter Season again Game Night and Social gathering was great, 12 seniors had a good time. I will continue on the first Friday of every month. Nov 7 from 4:30 to 7:00. Pizza will be supplied w/ tea/coffee
- Starting Nov 7 and every Thursday and Friday from 10-2 Terry Curry, Luwella Dwyer and Marianne Posser will oversee the "new" SC holiday gift store. The back card room next to the ping pong room will be transformed by then. Items that these women made and myself included will be for sale ....To keep the Bazaar going! Holiday spirit!
- Someone asked recently regarding teachers fees.....Teachers are paid ***per session***. Most classes go one hour.  
The gift fund does not pay for teachers.  
Teachers are sub-contractors hired by myself and their pay (fee) comes out of the Senior Services budget. The exercise class is the highest attended class.

Fall is here, winter right around the corner...Flu shot clinics are successful here & everywhere. BVNA did a super job again this year to make sure our seniors were taken care of!

I'm busy preparing for the next couple of months on a variety of programs and focusing on getting those seniors that I know of who fall into "social isolation" some kind of contact again with the Center. Esp a meal with the meal site.

Marilyn







## Director of Social Services/Municipal Agent for the Elderly

### Report for September 20, 2014

Operation Fuel summer program for electric has helped four disabled and 3 seniors. We will begin a new budget in December for oil. The poverty guidelines are the same as the state CEAP fuel program. Three of the applications were for seniors.

Renters Rebate applications were taken till the end of September. I completed sixty-eight applications. Applicants have to be a renter who rented in Connecticut for 2013 and is either totally disabled or elderly over 65 years old.

We have been very busy doing fuel applications. Attached the poverty guidelines and what is needed to apply. We have completed seventy-four applications. Thirty-four are disabled or elderly.

We are taking the holiday applications and have thirty Thanksgiving completed and Eighteen Christmas. The Christmas needs every family members sizes colors so the adopted persons can shop. Newtowners are very generous to our clients.

I checked on my elderly woman with all the mail. Usually she comes to the door and this morning she was just saying in a minute and speaking German. After a while I came back to my office and asked if the police could come and do a health and welfare check with me. They did get into the house and she was on the floor and not able to get up. The ambulance transported her to the hospital.

We are helping people sign up for food stamps and health insurance. Can be done on the computer or paper application with required documents. We have completed sixteen applications this month. I completed twenty redeterminations for the Medicare Savings Program.